

## **Project description – Child Restraint Device Use and Misuse**

Please reference “Overview of OHSP competitive grant award process” on the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) web site (<http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp>) for an explanation of the process.

### **Background**

Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death amongst children ages one to four. To reduce these deaths, Michigan has had a mandatory child restraint use law since 1982. Child restraint devices (CRDs) provide an effective means of reducing trauma to young vehicle occupants in the event of a crash.

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) funded one study of CRD use and misuse (“Child Restraint Device Use and Misuse in Michigan,” UMTRI-97-36) in 1997. A new survey directly observing CRD use will significantly update the state of traffic safety knowledge in Michigan.

### **Purpose**

The grantee will design and conduct a direct observation survey of CRD use and misuse in Michigan, report the results, and provide recommendations based on these results.

### **Deliverables**

The grantee shall provide OHSP with a report on the rates of use and misuse of child restraint devices in Michigan. This should include overall rates, rates by driver and vehicle characteristics, and patterns of misuse. The grantee shall provide OHSP with a draft copy for review before the report shall be considered final, and the grantee shall provide OHSP with 125 print copies and an electronic copy of the final report.

### **Additional specifications**

The previous report on this issue is available on the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute's web site (<http://www.umtri.umich.edu/>), and OHSP can provide a hard copy. This report can serve as an example of a satisfactory methodology and report on this topic. The grantee is not required to follow the same methodology and report style, and the proposal should outline the methodology to be used.

The survey sample should, as closely as possible, represent the population of Michigan vehicles, with accommodations to reduce error while surveying economically. The average education levels and household incomes of drivers surveyed in 1997 were significantly higher than Michigan's averages, possibly indicating a bias in the categories of survey sites selected (pediatrics, day care).

This will be the first large-scale study since the introduction of the LATCH system in 1999. Differences in misuse with and without LATCH, in this study and compared to the earlier study, would be a relevant area of consideration in reporting.

The organization awarded the grant must agree to abide by the OHSP “Grant Management Requirements,” as posted on the OHSP web site. Following the selection of a successful proposal, the grantee must complete the formal grant application and review process through Michigan's online e-grants system, to finalize grant details. All OHSP grants are administered on a reimbursement basis. OHSP administers all grants on a reimbursement basis. All grant-related costs incurred are first paid by the grantee, the grantee bills OHSP, and then OHSP reimburses the grantee.

**Due date**

All proposals for this project must be received at OHSP by September 3, 2004. Proposals may be submitted electronically in Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Office 97 format. If submitting paper copies, the candidate must submit five (5) copies.

**Contact information**

Please direct proposals and any questions about this grant opportunity to:

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